161 There is a slight rise in population: ratio of births over deaths is + .69 percent.

163 The sterility rate is 15.2 percent; the fertility rate, 4.3 pregnancies per woman.

141 The Ntumu are above average in height, mesocephalic, and platyrrhinian.

Indexes	Men	(measurements of women were not made)
Cephalic	77.4	
Nasal	102.3	
Cormique	50.6	
Envergure/T	101.6	

161 The population balance remains favorable in spite of an extremely
165 high rate of infant mortality, reaching 58.91 percent of children born alive. The ratio of births over deaths is + 1.53 percent.

163 The sterility rate is 12 percent; the fertility rate, 4.6 pregnancies per woman.

113 See G. Olivier, with the collaboration of Drs. Aujoulat, Chabeuf, Chagnoux, André David, and Grenier, "Documents anthropometriques pour servir a l'étude des principales populations du Sud-Cameroun /Anthropometric Documents for a study of the Major Peoples of the South Cameroons/," Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes Camerounaises, No. 15-16 (Sept-Dec. 1946), pp. 48-49 and 62.

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long migration of the Pahouin—although the name "Yalongo" spoken of in their geneologies is reminiscent of the Beti. Once again we are aware of the complexity of the Beti-Pahouin intermixture.

The villages and huts spread through the bush give an impression of poverty, although in 1903 the Germans noted that the great trade route from Bertoua to Yoko passed through Yekaba territory. /Map 16/ At the present time the whole length of the territory is serviced by the great eastern highway (Yaoundé—Nanga-Eboko—Bertoua).

Language. The fact that the Yekaba form part of the Pahouin migration is apparent from G. Tessmann's tribal map, where they are shown in the large Pahouin blot—under the general heading of "Mvele." We will return to this subject later in the chapter on the Bamvele.

Demography. The Yekaba are definitely decreasing in number. The infant mortality rate among them is 34.3 percent. The sterility rate is 33.93 percent; the fertility rate is 4.3 pregnancies per woman, but with about 10 percent stillbirths.

The population balance shows a ratio of -4.4 percent births to deaths.

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Moisel map, G3, Dume. /88/

THE BAMVELE AND THE BOBILI

Location: 12°30 to 13°30 long.
4°35 to 4°50 north lat.

On all German maps the people we call Bamvele are designated by the name of Bele (see the Moisel map and Tessmann's tribal map).

197 Language. The linguistic map of G. Tessmann shows without comment, the Yebekolo, under the category of "Mvele."

141 Physical Anthropology and Demography. The average height of the Yebekolo is 165.5; the average cephalic index is 78.8.

143 Their blood-group ratios are as follows:
O: 69.3 percent; A: 13.1 percent; B: 12.1 percent; AB: 5.35 percent; —index $\frac{A+AB}{A+AB}$: 1.197.

165 The extremely high rate of infant mortality (58.64 percent) is due
164 to malaria1. The disease is fostered by the marshiness of the region, which is likely to remain a source of sleeping sickness as well.

161 The population balance is stationary; the ratio of births to deaths is + 0.09 percent.

163 The sterility rate is 5 percent; the fertility rate is 3.98 pregnancies per woman.

See:

113 Olivier, G., with the collaboration of Drs. Aujoulat, Chabeuf, Chagnoux, André David, and Greiner, "Documents anthropometriques pour servir a l'étude des principales populations du Sud-Cameroun, /Anthropometric Documents for a Study of the Major Peoples of the South Cameroons/," Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes Camerounaises, No. 15-16 (Sept.-Dec. 1946), p. 65.

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Moisel map, G3, Dume

161 attributed to the optimism of this observer who "seems to have been conservative." (3) G. Sautter thinks that such a population,

3. G. Sautter, "Essai sur le peuplement et l'habitat au Woleu-Ntem" [Essay on the Population and Habitat in Woleu-Nt'Tem], Cahiers d'Outre-Mer, 14, April-June, 1951.

"itself deficient" (for causes which appear in part of a natural order since they occur "from one end to the other of the equatorial forest bloc"), has been sorely tried by endemic diseases and famine as well as by emigration and recruiting. Stabilization, which has asserted itself during the last two decades along with the equipment and enrichment of the region, is still tenuous. Because of this G. Sautter will not risk making any forecast on the future evolution of the Woleu-N'Tem population. He recognizes that the Fang of this region are a "flourishing population when compared to their congeners of the Ivindo, the Ogooué, and the coast, who are in a far worse position."

The fragility of this equilibrium was apparent at the time of the "war effort." The political report of Woleu-N'Tem (1944) pays particular attention to the problem of depopulation. It shows [165] a large excess of deaths over births (22.1 percent versus 15.9), and it stresses the serious recrudescence of the migratory move- [167] ment — an official estimate gives 4,500 adult men (that is more than 20 percent of the adult male population) who at that time had gone to Spanish Guinea. That is to say, that the results obtained since 1930 by [our] population policy have remained eminently precarious. While still one of the most vigorous ethnic groups of Gabon, the Fang have a handicap which makes them sensitive to any critical situation, as was apparent during the last years of the war. There is no medical report that [93] still boasts, as did the early observers, of the robustness and prolicacy of the Pahouin.

162 With the help of precise investigations made in Woleu-N'Tem, we have been able to study the structure of the Fang population in this relatively favorable region. The most apparent fact is the

In spite of normal fertility (the genital capacity, the mean number of pregnancies in women by the time of menopause, is 4. 2 for the whole district), the number of children is not sufficient because of the high infant mortality (see the following table), and also apparently because of the aging of the female population. Serious malarial diseases affecting 78 percent of the children from two to five years old are the reasons for this mortality as well as intestinal parasitosis.

[97] Table IV

(Based on the medical report of the 4th quarter of 1944)

District	Birth Rate	Rate of mortality from 0 to 1 year	Rate of infant mortality	Percentage of child population with reference to total population
Bitam	1. 3%	7. 1% of deaths	27% of deaths	29%
Minvoul	1. 3%	7. 3% of deaths	13% of deaths	25%
Oyem	1. 7%	10% of deaths	26% of deaths	34%
Mitzic	0. 8%	6. 7% of deaths	18% of deaths	25%

These figures should be completed by stating that infant mortality which is very high from zero to one year diminishes from one to five years and drops meaningfully only from this age on. Dr. Le Dentu in 1936 gave for the whole Fang people, for each of these categories, the following percentages: 16. 5 percent, 12 percent, and 8. 8 percent of deaths, which indicates the catastrophic situation in certain parts of the Pahouin country

Such are the figures as they appear in the privileged region of the Woleu-N'Tem. They are still higher when the whole

162 administrative division is taken into account, especially at the end
163 of a period of crisis, as is shown by the health study of 1944, or
165 when one considers only the most restricted village groupings that are the most affected. The diagrams for the three villages of Oyem (Fig. 3) are characteristic.

However this demographic situation appears excellent when it is compared to that of the Fang of other regions. In this respect we give as an example the Fang of the Ogoué-Ivindo about whom we have information gathered during the year 1947: [98] [Fig. 3.]

[99]

Index of replacement: 0.43.
Birth rate: 0.77 percent.
Percentage of child population: 24.7 percent.
Total mortality rate: 1.79 percent.
Infant mortality rate: 25 percent of deaths.(1)

1. Economic report of the Ogooué-Ivindo; chapter on "Demography."

163 And a slightly earlier report (1946) on the essentially Fang district of Booué shows complementary percentages which are still more significant: a genital capacity of 2.7 and for the young women a fertility rate (mean number of reported pregnancies) of 1.2, these figures being far below those obtained from the Fang of the Woleu-N'Tem. Incidentally, "35 to 40 percent of the young women remain sterile while the percentage of sterility in the older women does not exceed 8 to 12 percent." (2) The Fang

2. Population Commission, Official Report of the Meeting of August 8, 1946.

of the Ogooué-Ivindo are registered in a region where all the ethnic groups show a demographic decline and which has lost a seventh of its population from 1934 to 1947. Their situation is comparable to that of their congeners of Lower Gabon who, as Dr. Le Dentu pointed out, show a marked deficit.